(d) whether Government are satisfied with the progress made by the said panels; and

(e) if not, what steps are proposed to be taken to improve the working of these panels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Prime Minister during the Second Round Table Conference on Jammu and Kashmir held at Srinagar on May 24-25, 2006, suggested the creation of five Working Groups comprising members from amongst thost present at the conference or those nominated by parties and groups. The composition of these Groups is to be decided by the State Government in consultation with all parties and groups concerned.

These Working Groups are expected to deliberate and make recommendations on issues, namely (i) Confidence building measures across segments of society in the State (ii) Strengthening relations across the Line of Control (iii) Economic development (iv) Ensuring good governance (v) Strengthening relations between the State and the Centre. These groups are allowed to co-opt experts, if they so desire. As reported by the State Government, the following eminent persons have accepted the invitation of Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir to head the Working Group mentioned against each:

1. Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari: Confidence building measures across segments of society in the State
2. Shri M. K. Rasgotra: Strengthening relations across the Line of Control
3. Dr. C. Rangarajan: Economic Development
4. Shri N. C. Saxena: Ensuring Good Governance

The State Government has so far constituted the Working Group on "Confidence building measures across segment of society in the State" only. The remaining four Working Groups are yet to be constituted.

Public opinion about police

212. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the very people whom police

are supposed to protect are of the opinion that (i) about 77 per cent are less trust working, (ii) about 84 per cent are open to political interference, (iii) 80 per cent say corruption is a problem with the policy; and (iv) 75 per cent would think twice before filing FIR; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to improve the opinion of the people about the police force in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) People's perception about police vary. The source of the survey cited is not known. However, Government is concerned about improving the image of the police force and its accountability to the rule of law. Government has taken an initiative to set up a Review Committee on police reforms which has made several recommendations for making the police efficient, responsive and courteous. Emphasis is being placed on better standards of recruitment and training. Measures have been recommended for making the police professional and answerable to law, but responsive and courteous to citizens. These recommendations have been sent to the State Governments for implementation. Government has also set up a Committee of experts to draft a new Police Act which will formulate statutory provisions for *inter-alia* ensuring responsiveness and sensitivity of the police towards the public, especially the weaker and vulnerable sections, and accountability to the rule of law.

Amendments in Protection of Human Rights Act

213. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to bring in amendments to the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, to incorporate various changes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had received recommendations from various corners to make changes in the Bill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?